

Outbreaks -Samples for Testing

Report suspect Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea

If your pig farm is in England and you or your vet suspect that your pigs have an outbreak of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED), you are legally required to report this to APHA as detailed in the following information:

See PED 2—Reporting suspect PED outbreaks

Disease reference number for testing samples for PED

Once the disease has been reported to APHA, prompt sampling and diagnostic testing is very important to confirm if disease is due to PED. Guidance on sampling, labelling and dispatch to the laboratory is given below. Your veterinary surgeon must be involved and authorise these samples being sent for testing. When the suspect PED is reported to APHA, the Duty Vet will provide the person reporting disease by telephone with a **disease reference number**.

This disease reference number **must** be on the submission form with the farm name, farm address and the veterinary practice with the samples when they are sent (see below).

The samples must be submitted **direct to APHA Weybridge** with a completed APHA porcine submission form found on this link <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/forms/vla3-porcine.doc> requesting “**TC0398 PED virus PCR**” in the tests section. Write the APHA **disease reference number clearly** on this form in the box called clinical history. Rapid testing of samples from reported suspect PED cases in England at APHA is currently performed without charge to the submitting veterinary practitioner and the estimated turnaround time is two working days from arrival at APHA Weybridge.

Samples sent in this manner which have not first been reported as suspect PED cases will not be accepted for this rapid testing. If testing for other causes of diarrhoea is required, the veterinary surgeon should submit diagnostic samples to the APHA laboratory serving your area – see this link <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic/testing.htm>. PED testing is undertaken weekly on non-suspect cases when diagnostic samples are submitted from pigs with diarrhoea.

Collect samples for testing:

- Use leak-proof robust containers (eg universal or bijoux) with secure tops
- Label containers clearly with the disease reference number and the identities of the groups, litters or individual pigs sampled for each pool
- Collect 3 pooled samples of faeces (or terminal small/large intestinal contents from dead pigs), sample from several affected pens across each age group
- If pre-weaned pigs are affected, collect samples from piglets in different litters for each pool
- Each sample pool can contain freshly passed faeces from up to five pigs with diarrhoea which are early in the course of disease
- If widely differing age groups are affected, eg sucking pigs and finishers; or weaners and dry sows, then submit separate pooled samples from each age group
- Submit a maximum of three pooled samples per age group, or a maximum of six pooled samples from the herd if widely differing age groups are affected as above
- If samples are collected at the weekend, store in the fridge (not used for food) until sending.

Suspect PED outbreaks– Samples for testing

SOP 2.1

Package samples to send

- Samples must be packed to conform with Post Office regulations, including external labelling – please consult your veterinary surgeon for further advice and see details in sections A, B and E in the document here:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/guid-sub-sample-packing.pdf>



- Minimise contamination of outside of the containers with faeces and do not fill containers to brim (as gas produced during travel may burst them)
- Disinfect the outside of containers, spray or soak and leave for required contact time
- Place sufficient absorbent material (eg tissue paper or absorbent cotton wool) around each container to absorb any spillage during transport
- If ambient temperatures are high, send the samples with ice packs
- Place containers in the plastic bag and then a second bag in case one leaks. Disinfect the outside of outer bag as above.
- Place bags in robust, non-squashable, leak-proof container (eg bio-bottle) to send.
- Include **completed submission form with disease reference number** in the package but outside the container of samples.

Sending package to APHA Weybridge

Send package for next day delivery or earlier to the address below:

**Sample Reception,
APHA Weybridge,
Woodham Lane,
New Haw,
Addlestone,
Surrey KT15 3NB**

Postage or courier costs are the responsibility of the sender.

The PEDv PCR results will be reported to the submitting veterinary practice by APHA in the usual manner for diagnostic tests to veterinary investigation centres. No other chargeable diagnostic testing will be performed on these samples.

If you have other queries about PED, see the AHDB website for more advice: <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/pedv/>

If you have other queries about testing for PEDv, contact your local APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre or one of the following at APHA:

Susanna Williamson Email: Susanna.Williamson@apha.gsi.gov.uk Tel: **01284 724499**

Cornelia Bidewell Email: Cornelia.Bidewell@apha.gsi.gov.uk Tel: **01284 724499**

Alan Wight Email: Alan.Wight@apha.gsi.gov.uk Tel: **01626 891121**